

## Internet to be expanded on Meskwaki Settlement

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TAMA NEWS-HERALD - High-speed internet service will be expanded on the Meskwaki Settlement west of Tama-Toledo. The Iowa Communications Network is providing the basis for adding availability to about 196 homes by building a service to the Sac and Fox Tribal Center.

Through federal grant funding, a total of 4.2 miles of underground fiber route will be built to the center. ICN is not authorized to provide residential service, however.

In a partnership agreement with the Tribe, 13.2 miles of what is described as "distribution cable" will be built with the 196 "drops" to residences.

According to the ICN, "The Tribal Chairman for the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa, Adrian Pushetonequa has approved the partnership activities required to comply with both Federal and Tribal regulations for this project including access to Tribal rights-of-way for the deployment of the required network facilities."

In addition to the Settlement, ICN will expand services in Decatur and Winneshiek counties.

Dave Lingren, ICN's Executive Director said, "Reaching this milestone allows ICN to begin exclusively focusing on enhancing the infrastructure of the Network in order for our customers to benefit from applications that require larger amounts of Internet bandwidth."

According to information from Lori Larsen, ICN public relations manager, the project is part of a federal initiative to provide better internet service. Iowa Communications Network (ICN) received \$16.2 million for broadband infrastructure funding for its "Bridging the Digital Divide for Iowa Communities" federal grant project in July 2010.

It is a part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 appropriated \$7.2 billion for the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) to expand broadband access and adoption in communities across the U.S.

The ICN, a State of Iowa agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with equal access to education, healthcare, and government through Internet, data, voice, and video conferencing services.

For more information about the ICN visit: [www.icn.state.ia.us](http://www.icn.state.ia.us)